

Serbia

I. National Life & Character of the Serbs

By Hamilton Fyfe

Special Correspondent in the Balkans during the Great War

In this chapter the writer deals specially with the Serbs, whose country, as a result of the Great War, has become part of what is known as the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. This kingdom also includes Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavonia, and Slovenia, countries dealt with in the succeeding chapter; and Montenegro, which is described under its own heading

SERBIA is a country of peasants. There is no hereditary upper class, nor is there any middle class to speak of. The number of those who wear European clothes, and who have received a European education, and who occupy themselves with "white-collar jobs" is very small. Nine-tenths of the people are farmers, small farmers, who get out of the soil what to them is a comfortable living, and who have no desire to do any more than this.

Every writer on Serbia points out that if the peasant farms were better cultivated, if their owners worked harder, if they took up with modern methods of agriculture, they might become rich. But they do not want to become rich. They are a contented race. As long as they have plenty of simple food to eat and enough beer or wine and plum brandy to drink, as long as they can feel themselves the equals of anybody and enjoy life, they ask for nothing

more. Writers about Serbia discuss also, with tables of figures and diagrams of imports and exports, the possibilities of developing industry in the country. Industry means manufactures. Of these the Serbians have very few. They make rugs and carpets in the town of Pirot. They make cigarettes in vast quantities. There are rope-walks at Leskovatz. But factory labour is almost unknown.

Whether it is in consequence of this that there are no poor in Serbia I will not venture to decide. I rather fancy there is some connexion between these two aspects of Serbian life.

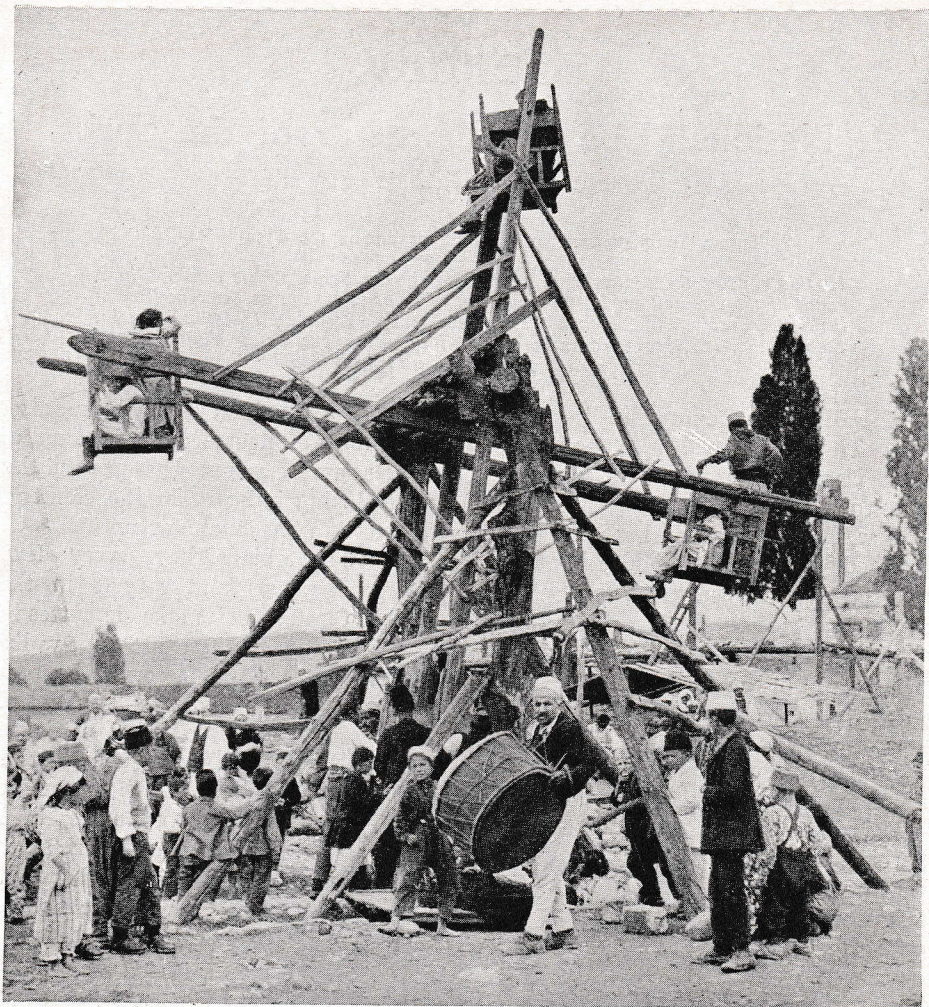
On a hundred pounds a year a family could be well-off before the Great War. A comfortable cottage could be built for twenty pounds. Food was very cheap. Except in Belgrade, there were next to no opportunities for spending money. The climate is not severe, although the weather is sometimes very hot in summer and



CAPABILITY AND COMELINESS

Among the women of South Serbia are many fine physical types which, though not actually handsome, are suggestive of a certain quiet pride and unbounded energy and endurance

Photo, Sir Harry Johnston



COUNTRY CARNIVAL IN AN OLD MOSLEM SECTION OF LOWER SERBIA

In the land of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, fairs and feast-days are welcomed with enthusiasm by the village communities, and Moslem and Christian join wholeheartedly in the amusements. Swings, big wheels, wrestling, and jumping are numbered among the popular pastimes, and during the evening dancing, eating, and drinking take place at the neighbours' houses

Photo, Merl La Voy

sometimes very cold in winter. The soil is rich. It produces excellent crops of maize, wheat, and barley. Two mowings of hay can be counted upon. Tobacco can be cultivated with profit. Fruit and vegetables are given away, and those who are fond of bacon can eat it at every meal.

For the chief national occupation of Serbia is pig-keeping. Far back in the mists of what is styled History, but which might more correctly be called Legend, we can discern the chieftains of the Serbs fleeing from their enemies,

Turks or Bulgarians, and driving herds of pigs before them. In no country, save Ireland, are so many pigs to be seen as in Serbia. Which brings me to a reflection that has often passed through my mind: that the Serbs and the Irish are in several particulars alike.

Their history is a living thing to them. They will not allow any of their glorious deeds or any bad turn done them to be forgotten. Their folk-lore is exceptionally vivid because it is based mostly on national traditions. Although it has been affected by waves of Jewish,

SERBIA & THE SERBS

Gypsy, Cetlic, Moslem, Greek, Roman, and Turkish invasion or immigration, it has remained distinctively Serbian.

When the day's work is over, and the evening meal done, the peasants are often to be found sitting round some old man who tells them stories of the past, while the "gusla," the Serbian one-string fiddle, contributes a mournful wild accompaniment.

The Serbians, also like the Irish, have been cursed by their politicians, who make their living out of politics and have made as great a mess of the country's affairs as was possible. If the

people had not been, on the whole, sensible and law-abiding and more interested in their own business than in the strife of parties, each striving to secure the spoils of office, the mess would have been worse still. Unfortunately, the spoils were so widely distributed that a considerable part of the nation was forced to take part in political conflict.

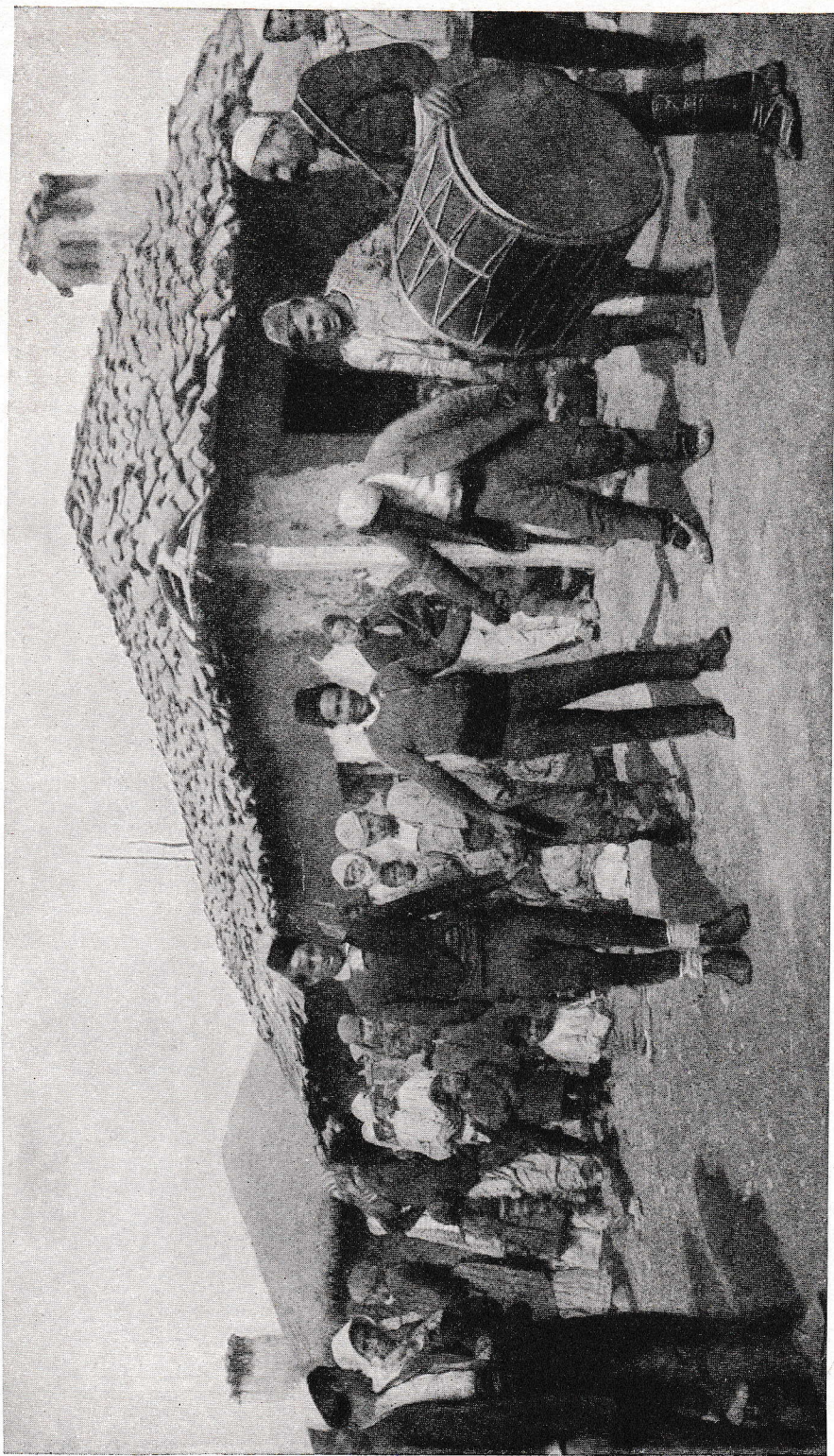
When a ministry went out of office, all the officials whom it had appointed lost their places. There were always in the country, therefore, a large number of the more active-minded kind of



UNOSTENTATIOUS DWELLING-HOUSE ON THE KOSSOVO PLAIN

Such primitive homes are not infrequently to be seen in Old Serbia, where ancient customs and beliefs still sway the peasantry. The long years of oppression under Ottoman rule taught the Serbs to conceal whatever wealth they happened to possess; this habit became a second nature, and in many instances the unpretentious mud hut is the only dwelling the Serb is accustomed to or desires

Photo, E. A. Payne



WANDERING MUSICIANS HELPING TO MAKE MERRY AT A FEAST-DAY OF THE PEASANTRY IN OLD SERBIA

Nomads of many nationalities are scattered about the territory of Yugo-Slavia. Gypsies form the largest element, and there are also pastoral tribes who depend on their flocks of black sheep for a livelihood. Itinerant pedlars and musicians roam the country, gathering their sustenance from among the peasantry. Seldom do these nomads meet with a cold reception, for Serbian hospitality is proverbial, and the poorest host will greet the traveller with the words: "The house is God's and yours, and we shall find something to eat, be it but two potatoes with love and the goodwill that cannot be divided."

Photo, E. A. Payne



MAKING AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS IN THE MARKET PLACE AT MITROVITZA, OLD SERBIA

The quaint small town of Mitrovitza is situated on the Sitnitze, a southern tributary of the Ibar, rivers that form the northern and eastern boundaries of the Kossovo Plain. Mitrovitza witnessed many a melancholy spectacle during the Great War, but town life has once more resumed the peaceful aspect of normal times; natives loiter about the narrow streets and chat with the country folk who barter their produce, or the husbandmen who come to the market to invest in new wooden plough or harrow and delight to watch these growing into shape under the skilful hands of their makers

Photo, E. A. Payne

SERBIA & THE SERBS

people striving to make the opposition parties hateful to the electors, and an equally large number doing their best to bring contempt upon the government in office, so that they might be appointed to administrative posts.

The politicians were not, as a rule, men whose characters commanded respect, or who were moved by any higher impulse than self-interest. Serbia, therefore, which might in better hands have been a country without political friction, became the scene of bitter party warfare, degenerating sometimes into open fighting between the partizans.

But under all governments there existed in the more remote country districts bands of brigands who used politics merely as an excuse for their

method of earning a living by robbery and sometimes by violence. They were as humane as bandits can be, and they had some sense of humour. Once they captured the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and let him go after drinking and talking with him for half an hour. He said it was one of the most entertaining half-hours he had ever known. In the Balkans brigands are known as "Komitadjis," which means "members of committees." Thus the nomenclature of politics is the same as with the British, though the "Komitadjis" use bombs instead of arguments to convert political opponents.

Serbia resembles the Ireland of the past also in this, that the national Church is the Church of the entire nation. Ninety-eight out of every



MEMBERS OF THE CROATIAN COMMUNITY OF YUGO-SLAVIA

Croatia, with Slavonia, once formed an annexe of the Kingdom of Hungary, but is now a portion of Yugo-Slavia. The Croats are closely akin to the Serbs and speak the Serbo-Croatian language, but use the Latin alphabet instead of the Cyrillic, and are Roman and not Greek Catholic. They are a good-natured, hospitable people, and have many quaint national customs and costumes



CLASSIC GATEWAY IN SPALATO, DIOCLETIAN'S CITY BY THE SEA

Spalato takes its name from the fact that the Roman Emperor Diocletian built himself a "palatium" or palace there, where he hoped to be safe from the disturbances of his time. Much of the older part of the town lies within the palace walls. Behind, encircling hills enhance the view, and in front a little bay opens out of the Adriatic

hundred Serbs are Orthodox. Their Church is affiliated to the Greek, Russian, Bulgarian, and Rumanian. They are Eastern, instead of Western, Christians, taking the forms of their religion from Byzantium and not from Rome. As the Roman Catholic priesthood of Ireland has been prominent in all national movements, so the "popes" of Serbia have always been identified with the struggles of the people against foreign rule. Every priest is a "pope" (the word means father), and the Serbian popes are not so much a class apart as the Russian. They are more respected by their flocks, and often take the lead in local affairs.

Stories are told against them such as that which represents the world at one period being divided into two parishes only, south-east and north-west. There were, therefore, only two priests. When they met, one would ask, "How art thou, brother in Christ?"; and the

other would invariably reply: "Well enough, thank God, but I should be better if the world were only one parish and I were the only priest."

They are made fun of for looking after their fees, as in the tale of the priest who was drowned. The man who told the widow about it said he did everything he could to save the drowning man. "I leaned over the water and called out again and again, 'Give me you hand, father. Give me your hand.'" To which the widow replied, weeping, "God's judgement be upon you. You ought to have called to him, 'Take my hand!' You ought to have known that priests are not accustomed to give. They always take." But there is no real ill-feeling behind these satirical anecdotes.

All the parish clergy must be married, and some of their wives turn out odd helpmates for priests. There was one not long ago who was backed by her

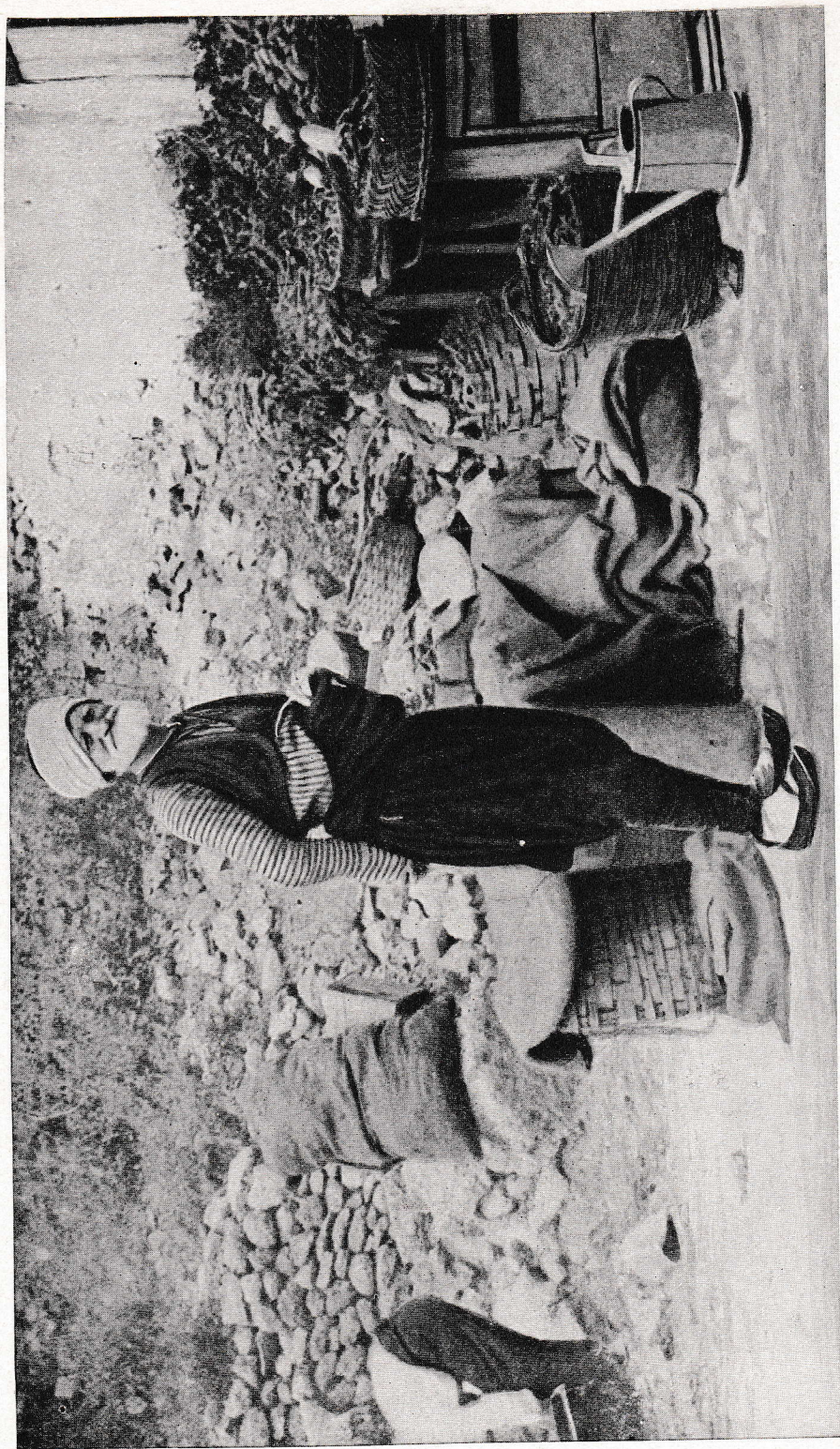


ON THE ROAD TO MARKET IN THE COUNTRYSIDE OF YUGO-SLAVIA
Throughout the Serbian lands the woman has her full share of work. She is the first to rise in the morning, the last to lie down to sleep at night; during the day she has little or no respite; much manual labour falls to her lot, and she may often be seen guiding a bullock-wain or plough the while a burly yokel loiters tranquilly in the background



WARM WINTER COSTUME OF A SLAVONIAN FARMER

The valleys of Slavonia are extremely fertile, and agriculturists are successful in producing fine crops of grain, fruit, grapes, hemp, and flax. Slavonian farmers are a stalwart race, energetic and independent; the land they tend is generally their own property; little outside labour is required, for neighbours willingly lend their services should the farmer and his family be unable to cope with their crops



MAHOMEDAN GREENGROCCER OF MOSTAR, CHIEF TOWN OF HERZEGOVINA

There are large numbers of Mahomedans in Herzegovina, and much of the local trade is in their hands, Mostar was transferred from what was the Austro-Hungarian province of Bosnia. It lies upon the banks of the Narenta river, and many mosques surround the Greek cathedral. The neighbouring country, well watered and fertile, produces a number of vegetables, especially cucumbers, and the vender usually has his baskets and sacks overflowing



DISPLAY OF FEMININE FINERY AFTER THE MORNING SERVICE IN A VILLAGE CHURCH OF YUGO-SLAVIA

The country now familiar as Yugo-Slavia is the home of several distinct peoples, speaking separate languages, and differing from each other in their modes of living and their religious beliefs. Costumes naturally vary as much as customs, and it often suffices to have but one glimpse of headdress or ornament in order to ascertain the native districts of their wearers. Bright colours are in vogue throughout the country, and the Sabbath day, or a gala day, brings them all to view

SERBIA & THE SERBS

husband to drink against any officer in the Serbian Army! It is no doubt the fact that the clergy are on the same level as the people which accounts for the Church having so much influence and for its keeping the nation together as it has in many critical hours.

The Orthodox ritual is not in the speech of the present day, but in Church Slavonic, which corresponds to the Latin ritual of the Roman Catholic

Church in Ireland. Neither is understood of the people. The music in Serbian churches is usually good, and it will probably be considered by most as another point in their favour that there is not always, or even usually, a sermon. On the other hand, the popes often, like Irish priests, make speeches to their congregations on some topic of the day. As the advice and teaching of the priests are thus apt to be more practical



HORSE AND HUNTER SHARE A SHEEPSKIN COAT

Like ancient armour the huge sheepskin coat of this Slavonian hunter protects both horse and rider with its inside fleece. In the mountainous districts wild animals are still to be encountered by the persevering hunter, while goats can be stalked among the higher peaks and deer shot in the woodlands. Smaller game, hares, and rabbits are seldom considered worthy quarry



FINISHING TOUCHES TO THE SUNDAY TOILET OF A YOUTHFUL SERB

Not far from Belgrade lies the little village of Kupinovo ; a pleasant spot, inhabited by an industrious and attractive peasantry. The women are handsome and sturdily built, and, when household duties are done, spend much time in the fields, tilling, sowing, and reaping, or tending their flocks. The headdress, usually worked in gorgeous colours, is the prerogative of the married woman

than ideal, no one will be surprised at the emptiness of the Serbian churches, except on the great festivals, Good Friday, Easter Day, Whit Sunday, and on the anniversaries of famous events in the national history. Serbs consider their church more as a patriotic institution which holds the country together than as a religious establishment for purely spiritual ends.

Possibly this is due in some indirect fashion to the same cause which accounts for the absence of a Serbian aristocracy and the very slow growth of a middle class. Aristocracies grew up out of feudalism. Under the feudal system the land was held by a few men (the

nobles). The mass of people were landless (the serfs). The nobles allowed the serfs to cultivate land and to live round their castles for protection, and in return the serfs had to be ready to turn out and fight whenever they were called upon, either to defend their masters' territory, or to attack that of some neighbouring people. In most Western countries this system decided the structure of society which still remains more or less on an aristocratic and proletarian basis. In Serbia there never was feudalism. The land never got into the hands of a small minority. Therefore there was not a nobility. The unit was the family or



DALMATIAN PEASANT GIRLS OF THE ISLE OF ULBO

In the midst of the archipelago that litters the Adriatic from the Gulf of Fiume in the north nearly to Ragusa in the south lies the little Isle of Ulbo. Though somewhat off the tourists' track it has a busy port which gives harbour to the inter-island shipping that carries the wine, olives, and fish for which Dalmatia is famed. The full-skirted costume is one of the prevailing styles



DALMATIAN HOUSEWIFE GATHERING ORANGES ON THE ISLAND OF ULBO

The hardy fishertolk who inhabit Dalmatia on the Adriatic coast have little difficulty in procuring a livelihood, for, besides the extensive fisheries, Mediterranean fruit trees grow abundantly, and wines, olive oil, and maraschino—a cordial distilled from fermented cherries—are produced; all helping towards the support of the population of the mainland and the adjacent islands, including Ulbo



PEASANTRY OF RAGUSA QUENCHING THEIR THIRST AT A FOUNTAIN

Surrounded by a wall with numerous towers, the old city of Ragusa, a seaport of Dalmatia, lies on the shores of the Adriatic. City life centres round the Placa, or Corso, which was once an arm of the sea and intersects the whole town. At its east end rises the Guard House, in the hoary walls of which nestles the handsome and much-frequented old fountain seen above

group of families, the "zadruga." This, however, only comes into prominence in Serbian history during the Middle Ages. Its origin is traced by some authorities to the taxation which was then laid upon heads of families or upon houses. This taxation made it advantageous to have as many people as possible living under one head or in one house.

Even now one comes across in parts of Serbia vast, shapeless dwellings containing as many rooms as will house not far off a hundred souls. One can see how these rooms have been added from time to time. Many of them are merely lean-to shelters. As each young

man of the "zadruga" married he built on his room and brought his bride along. So the payment of taxes was evaded.

It was a bad system in a military sense, for there was no means of compelling the people to fight, as the feudal barons could compel their serfs. That is why Serbia was so often overrun by its neighbours and has had so sad a history. The people were patriotic up to a point. They drank in their country's traditions as they sat in the hall of the "zadruga," listening as children to songs and legends of past glories. But they had no compact and disciplined military framework. When a man had

SERBIA & THE SERBS

had enough of fighting, he went home. Even the leader who is most famous in Serbian history, Karageorge, or Black George, the founder of the Karageorgevitch family, which is now on the throne, threw up the sponge after he had fought Turkey for eight years. He was disappointed, it is true, by the failure of the Russian Tsar to keep his promise to help Serbia to break away from Turkey altogether. But Black George's desertion of the cause of liberty was a bitter grief to his countrymen.

It is only during the last twenty years that Serbia has had a modernised military system with compulsory service with the colours for two years, and after that service in the first, second, and third classes of the reserve until the age of fifty. Her troops fought well in

the Balkan War, which at last gave them victory over the Turk, and in the Great War they distinguished themselves on many battlefields, though their losses were appalling.

The Serbian officer is often a well-educated and intelligent man, talking French or German, perhaps both, and knowing Russian, too, because it is so like Serbian.

The Army fell into discredit abroad because it made the revolution of 1903, in which the degenerate and dissolute King Alexander and his disreputable Queen Draga were assassinated with repulsive barbarity. But those who were shocked by this act, now admitted to be necessary and just, were not the Serbian people, who had suffered under Alexander's misgovernment and under the weak, tyrannical rule of his father



BRIDAL PARAPHERNALIA OF BARANYA, NORTH YUGO-SLAVIA

Among the rural festivals of Baranya none affords so much merriment as the marriage feast. The preceding matrimonial ceremonies are varied and permeated with native tradition, but material considerations influence the young yokel less than formerly, and pretty faces and robust figures never fail to attract a suitor, even though there be no substantial dowry with them

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RICH AND VARIED RAIMENT IN VOGUE IN THE ÜSKÜB DISTRICT

As one views the intricate designs of these Macedonian costumes, one can but marvel at the infinite patience and skill which could produce such exquisite pieces of ornamental needlework. The somewhat ponderous costume on the right may be seen at Üsküb in both summer and winter and would certainly require a sturdy frame to carry it with any degree of comfort

Photos, L. G. Popoff

Milan, whose quarrels with his wife Natalie were the scandal and the joke of all Europe.

The officers who killed the king and queen were carried away into hideous excesses by their fury and long pent up resentment, but they certainly did their country a service. Like the Irish, the Serb, though usually gentle and con-

siderate, can be roused by sudden anger or by brooding over grievances to the commission of horribly cruel acts.

The Serbian character has, indeed, several points of resemblance with that of the Irish. This follows naturally enough from the likeness which we have traced between the institutions of the two races. Institutions are the

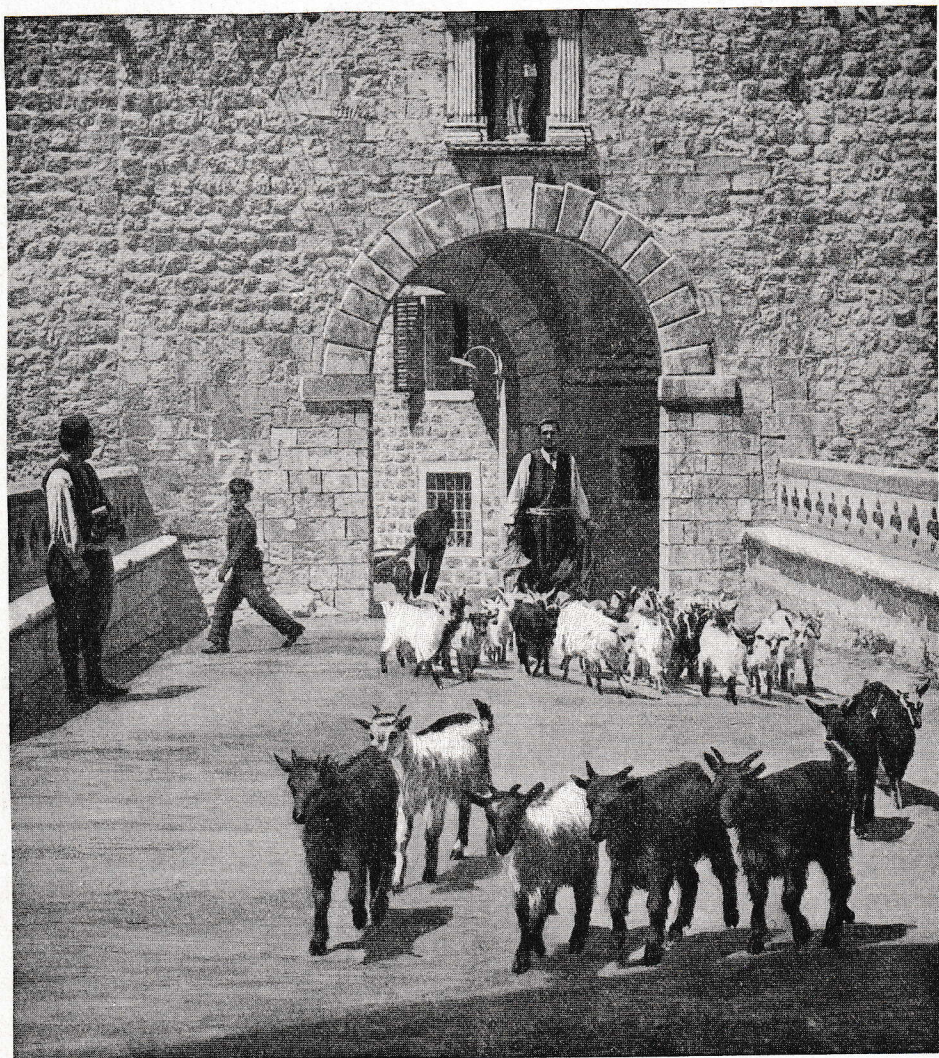
SERBIA & THE SERBS

natural outcome of national character, wherever the national character is strong enough to resist having them forced upon it from outside. The Serbs are even more independent than the Irish. They will not become domestic servants. The few in Serbia who keep servants have to go outside the country for them.

The Serbian peasant is not fond of hard work. He does not do more than

he need. Most of them have more land than they care to cultivate, and they do not take any trouble to add to its fertility. With such vast numbers of pigs they could manure it richly at no cost and with little labour, but there are few farms on which this is done.

Like the Irish again, the Serbs are simple and natural and open-hearted. Their manners are kindly and dignified. They are at ease in any company, and



S. BLASIUS KEEPS VIGIL OVER RAGUSA FROM THE PORTA PILLE

Immense walls defend Ragusa, whose position on the Adriatic is of great strategic importance. Approached from Gravosa, Ragusa's chief harbour, the town is entered across a bridge and through the narrow Porta Pille, over the arch of which is a statue of S. Blasius, patron saint of the town. At the other side of the city the Porta Ploce gives access to the old harbour of Casson



EMBROIDERED WAISTCOATS AND APRONS FOR THE ADORNMENT OF MEN

The national costumes of Serbia are extremely varied and attractive, and the peasantry show little inclination to modify the quaint fashions which have been handed down to them from their fathers, and strapping, broad-shouldered young men, such as this pair from the village of Resnik, rigidly adhere to their linen shirts, embroidered waistcoats, and variegated and fringed aprons



HOMELY WOMEN OF OBRENOVAC IN THEIR CURIOUS LOCAL HEADDRESS

As a rule, the hardy peasant-woman of Old Serbia makes very light of the domestic worries which she encounters during the routine of her everyday life. Laborious out-of-door work has fitted her with sound health and a vigorous frame, so that she is constitutionally well equipped against the troubles that beset her, and is always ready to see the silver lining to every cloud



KALEIDOSCOPIC ACTIVITY IN SERAJEVO'S LABYRINTHINE BAZAAR

Most fascinating in its riot of colour is the Cersija, or bazaar, of Sarajevo, where the weekly market gathers peasants in variegated costumes from all parts of Bosnia. The bazaar is made up of more than half a hundred narrow lanes lined with wooden booths allotted to virtually every trade and handicraft. Especially noteworthy are the carpets, copper wares, and native filigree work

in public places they often choose to sit down next to those who think themselves somebodies just to show that they have no idea of admitting any pretensions to superiority.

But here the points of resemblance between Serbs and Irish come to an end. The Serb has a soil to cultivate which easily yields him up the kindly fruits of the earth in variety and abundance. He lives in sunshine and amid pleasant surroundings. Almost the whole country—three-quarters, at the least—may be said to be cultivable, for the mountains are not high. The Serb has not to fight against adverse conditions of weather and soil. He cannot be deprived of his land.

By a law passed as long ago as 1873 it was enacted that if a peasant were proceeded against for debt, and if his creditor sold him up, at least five acres,

with a plough and a pair of oxen, and other farm implements, must be left to him. He can get help from his neighbours to cut his grass or harvest his grain, for the cooperative principle is well understood and valued in Serbia. Further, he can make sure of a wholesome and attractive diet by very moderate exertions, instead of being obliged to live mainly on potatoes.

If you are invited into a peasant's house, which you are sure to be if you arrive at a meal time, for the Serbians are most hospitable, you will find on the table cheese, bacon, perhaps dried fish or dried meat, and certainly cabbage. Or you may find the family about to dine off a nourishing and appetising soup called "charba," a Turkish word signifying thick broth. This has meat or fish in it, and plenty of vegetables. Tomatoes are largely used in Serbian



IMAM CONDUCTING FRIDAY PRAYER AT SERAJEVO'S GREAT MOSQUE

The Hursef Bey Mosque, or Begova Djamia, rising in the west part of the bazaar, is one of Serajevo's most famous and beautiful structures. Built in the sixteenth century by Hursef, Pasha of Bosnia, it is said to be surpassed in Europe only by the mosques of Adrianople and Constantinople. This photograph was exceedingly difficult to procure owing to the use of a camera being rigorously forbidden

Photo, G. R. Carline

SERBIA & THE SERBS

dishes. A very good hash of meat and tomatoes is often served.

Fresh beef they seldom have, but young lamb is a favourite dish, and no wonder, for it is perfectly delicious. Often the lamb is small enough to be roasted whole. They roast sucking-pigs, too. I remember one afternoon coming



BEAUTY BRILLIANTLY ADORNED

A love of brilliant colours and glittering trinkets distinguishes the Macedonian woman, and this dark-eyed belle of Struga is a staunch upholder of the fashion

Photo, L. G. Popoff

across some Serbian peasants cooking a little pig over a fire on a river bank. When it was ready I shared it with them, and very succulent it was.

The peasant houses are mostly two-roomed. In one room is a big stove and oven, with all the household pots and pans and crockery. The other is a bedroom for the whole family, excepting those who prefer to sleep on the stove. This indiscriminate use of the sleeping place is not so shocking to the English way of thinking as it sounds, for the Serbians do not undress to go to bed. Around the house are fruit-trees, mostly plum and damson.

The Russian "mir" or village commune was very much like the old Serbian system of the "zadruga" already referred to, except that the tribal element was absent from it. That also is disappearing. It is curious that, as Socialism on a vast scale seems to attract more and more adherents, the small existing Socialist communities tend to become extinct.

Go into the fields after your meal in the peasant house and you will see men using wooden ploughs, just as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did in Old Testament times. You will see women and children sowing maize and pumpkin-seed together. They hold it in their aprons, throw it into the furrows prepared, and trample it in with their bare feet. When Serbians want to harrow their land, they cut down bushes and, weighting these with stones, drag them over it. It is an ancient way, but it seems to serve its purpose in Serbia.

By way of providing against any possible shortage of food, the local authorities tax every head of a family 300 pounds of grain each year. This is stored in a local granary, and cannot be sold until the next harvest has been gathered in. Thus there is always a reserve store. At harvest time the bullock carts (creaking, clumsy things, but "why should we want anything different?" the Serbians say) come to the granary from all the farms round, bringing in the "taxes," which the peasants willingly pay because they can see what a useful purpose such taxation in kind serves.

The Serbians have not the same love of colour as most races in the Near East. They dress mostly, men and women both, in white and grey. The men wear linen knickerbockers, linen kilt, linen shirt, and generally two waistcoats, on the inner of which, as a rule nowadays, there is a chain with an American watch attached to it. When this costume is clean it looks attractive, but it does not keep clean for long. This, and the length of time it takes to

SERBIA & THE SERBS

put on so elaborate a dress, are reasons which have induced many Serbians of late years to abandon the traditional dress and wear tweeds, at all events on working days. In the more northerly part of Serbia, the district in which Nish, so long the temporary capital, is situated, the costumes are gayer and more varied. Up there the scenery is bolder and the mixture of races far more pronounced.

Here, too, superstitions have more hold. All peasants are superstitious, and often wise men think there may be something real or valuable behind their superstitions, but the common-sense method of education in Serbia is destroying the belief in the supernatural among most of the generation now growing up. There is one belief,

however, to which all cling. That is the belief that no work ought to be done on saints' days. They say, half seriously, half in fun, that the saints are angry if their days are not honoured, and are sure to take their revenge. A British farmer in Serbia had occasion to recollect this warning all his life. His farm-hands told him they would not work on S. Mark's day.

"But he is not a red-letter saint."

(Saints whose holidays are to be kept have their names printed in red in calendars.)

"No, but he is powerful all the same."

"Well, he may be or he may not be. Anyway, there is work to be done, and if you won't do it I shall go into the fields myself."



CROATIAN PEASANTS IN AGRAM'S VEGETABLE MARKET

Advantageously situated on the River Save, in a fertile vine and grain growing country, and with good railway communication, Agram, or Zagreb, is a commercially prosperous capital town of Croatia. Most of the trade and other modern activities are carried on in the Lower Town, the palaces of the archbishop and of the former Ban being in the Bishop's Town and the Upper Town respectively

Photo, H. C. Woods



COMELINESS AND CHARM CLAD IN BROIDERY AND BROCADE

She is a native of Struga, a town situated on the north shore of Lake Ochrida—a fine stretch of water, eighteen miles long, lying high among the mountains in the south of Serbia on the Albanian frontier. Her dress, with its close-fitting, embroidered bodice and handsome brocade apron, betokens that delight in personal adornment which is so marked a characteristic of the Macedonian races

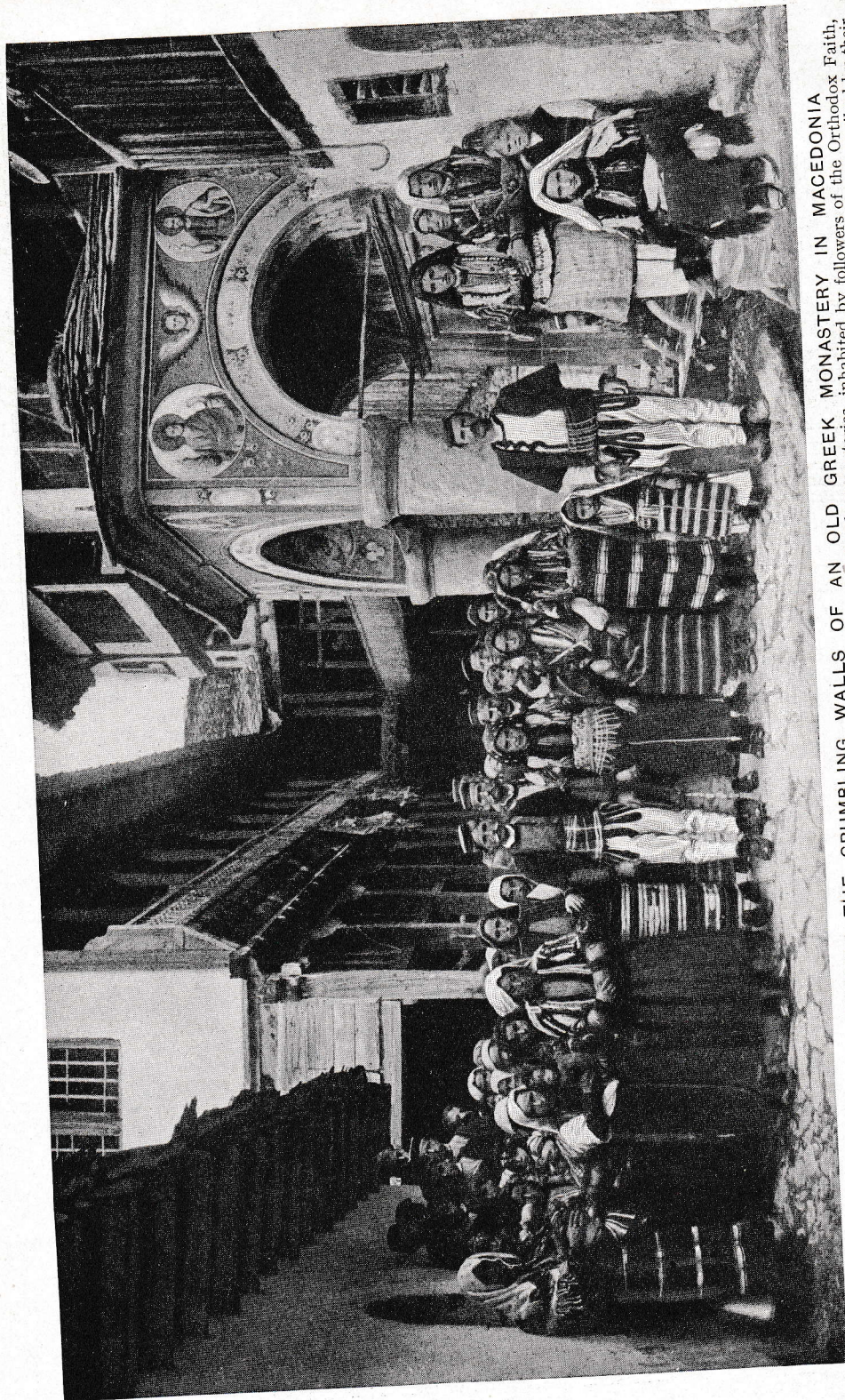
Photo, L. G. Popoff



DISTINCTIVE MACEDONIAN FASHIONS OF MATRON AND MAID

In modern usage the name Macedonia is applied approximately to an area north-west of the Aegean Sea, partly in Greece, partly in Yugo-Slavia and Bulgaria. The people of Western Macedonia, now belonging to Yugo-Slavia, are of a lively, enterprising character, skilled in diverse handicraft, with the Oriental love of fine colours strongly developed in them, as these natives of Krushevo testify

Photo, L. G. Popoff



PILGRIMS ASSEMBLED OUTSIDE THE CRUMBLING WALLS OF AN OLD GREEK MONASTERY IN MACEDONIA
 A large percentage of the inhabitants of Macedonia belong to the Greek Catholic Church, and Greek monasteries, inhabited by followers of the Orthodox Faith, are frequently found about the country. The women are assiduous churchgoers, and most scrupulous in their observance of the formulas prescribed by their Church respecting all fasts and feasts of the ecclesiastical year. This small group, gathered near an old monastery of West Macedonia, is chiefly composed of peasant pilgrims, who in their bright-hued costumes display a pleasing touch of vivid colour against the drab and tiresomely uniform tone of the decaying walls around them

Photo, L. G. Popoff

SERBIA & THE SERBS

"Don't go, master. You will only provoke the saint. Some harm will come to you."

Out the master went, however, and worked all day. As he rode home in the evening his horse shied and threw him, and his collar-bone was broken. A coincidence, of course, unless the horse was purposely startled, but a decided "score" for the devotees of S. Mark.

In some of the stories about saints and their assistance there is a spice of humour. A Serbian is said to have fallen into a river and called upon S. Nicholas, his patron, for help. The saint replied: "Yes, yes, here I am, but strike out with your hands and feet, and swim out by yourself without waiting for me to drag you out."

Every member of the Orthodox Church has a patron saint, and celebrates his saint's day as we celebrate birthdays, only more so. These celebrations are called "Slavi." "Slava" means "glory," and the expression is derived from glorifying the saints on their name-days, though now the "slava" is a festival of eating and drinking without, as a rule, any religious significance.

The Serbians are fond of noise. Their way of showing that they are getting enjoyment out of life is to fire off guns or pistols. I have been at a Serbian dinner-party where a number of the guests made holes in the floor and the ceiling with revolver bullets. I left early on that occasion, after sitting with my feet drawn up to the seat of my chair, and I heard next day that one of my Slav friends had said of me, "Such



POPULAR COSTUMES OF SMILEVO VILLAGE

Heavy coloured fringes are a striking feature of this Macedonian costume, which leaves little to be desired so far as ornamentation is concerned, for there is scarcely a square inch of material that has not been carefully worked with the needle

Photo, L. G. Popoff

a pity he does not understand or appreciate the Slav temperament." On that occasion, too, the host, a gentleman with a bushy black beard, kissed me affectionately before I left. This is the common form of salutation among men in Serbia. An acquaintance of mine who had not been long in the country, saw two bearded and truculent-looking fellows fall against one another on a railway station, thought they were fighting, and wanted to have them separated. But they were only two friends greeting each other after a long separation.

The Serbians are a genuinely musical folk. In the fields you hear young peasants playing their flutes. Shepherds



RAINBOW HUES IN A GARDEN OF SOUTHERN SERBIA

Her attractive attire is shown to the best advantage among the autumnal tints of the old garden. Though belonging to the upper and wealthier class of Tetovo society, she is conservative and artistic enough to prefer the graceful and tasteful national dress of her people to the more modern, though infinitely less becoming, costumes, which are frequently ridiculous travesties of Parisian fashions

Photo, L. G. Popoff



MODERN MAHOMEDAN MAIDEN OF TETOVO

The long coat and full trousers stamp her as an inheritor of an Eastern culture. The veil has been discarded by many of the Moslem sections of the heterogeneous population of Southern Yugo-Slavia, who, freed from the Turk, have grown accustomed to the sight of Christian women, and now unblushingly expose their features, delighting in the comfort and freedom which this new fashion entails

Photo, L. G. Popoff

pipe to their sheep a large part of the day. Singing is very often heard in the villages and small towns. It is a natural, irrepressible expression of their good health and light-hearted satisfaction with life. They dance, too, but not so elaborately as the Russians.

Their national dance is the Kolo (a word meaning circle). They stand in a ring, men and women together, holding each other by the hands or by the belts. First they all move a few steps to the right, then a few steps to the left. This with a few steps backwards and forwards completes the performance. There is a variation which keeps the dancers in a file instead of a circle, and allows the leader to lead them about as he pleases. There is singing during the dance. Suddenly it will burst forth from the young men's throats :

" Opa, tsovpa,
Danas, sutra,
Nikad nishta
Do izdrtih opanaka ! "

Which means :

" Up and down,
To-day, to-morrow,
No result
Save torn sandals ! "

Few travellers see these village dances, for they seldom visit more of Serbia than a few towns. These are not in any way indicative of Serbian character, nor do they illustrate any but the meaner aspects of Serbian life. Only some 70,000 families inhabit them, out of a total of 375,000.

There is a fine view from the high public garden at Belgrade, and the whitewashed houses which keep up the fitness of its name (Biyele-grad, White City, so called originally from its white walls), give it a shining, attractive appearance as it is approached by river. In the spring it is gay with the blossom of lilac and chestnut. In summer one can sit in almost any garden beneath the shade of spreading walnut or fig.

Nish is not much of a town—yet, but " some day " the inhabitants tell you !

As for the inns, they are sometimes surprisingly good and seldom intolerable. A man once reproached a friend for telling him he would find them " passable."

" No, no," his friend replied, " I said they were ' possible.' "

At all events they are not so bad as to deter enterprising travellers from making the acquaintance of an interesting people and their drably picturesque land.

II. Other Branches of the Slav Family

By Anthony Dell

Author of " Italian and Serb," etc.

THE people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, now part of the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, have been more deeply influenced by the centuries of Turkish rule than any other branches of the southern Slav family. Religious dissensions played a large part in the history of these countries, and the struggle between the Greek Orthodox Church and the Bogomil heretics was very keen. After the Turkish occupation the Bogomils largely turned to

Islam. These included many of the principal landowners. Gradually the whole of the landowning class became Mahomedan, while many peasants followed them, others remaining Christian.

At the present time about one-third of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina is Mahomedan, the bulk of the remainder being Orthodox. There are, however, a large number of Roman Catholics and Jews. The Jews are of Spanish origin. Apart from these the whole population is Slav and speaks

IN NEW SERBIA
With Its Diverse Races



Elegant in figure and deportment this girl of Yugo-Slavia displays to advantage a simple yet richly embroidered variety of national dress



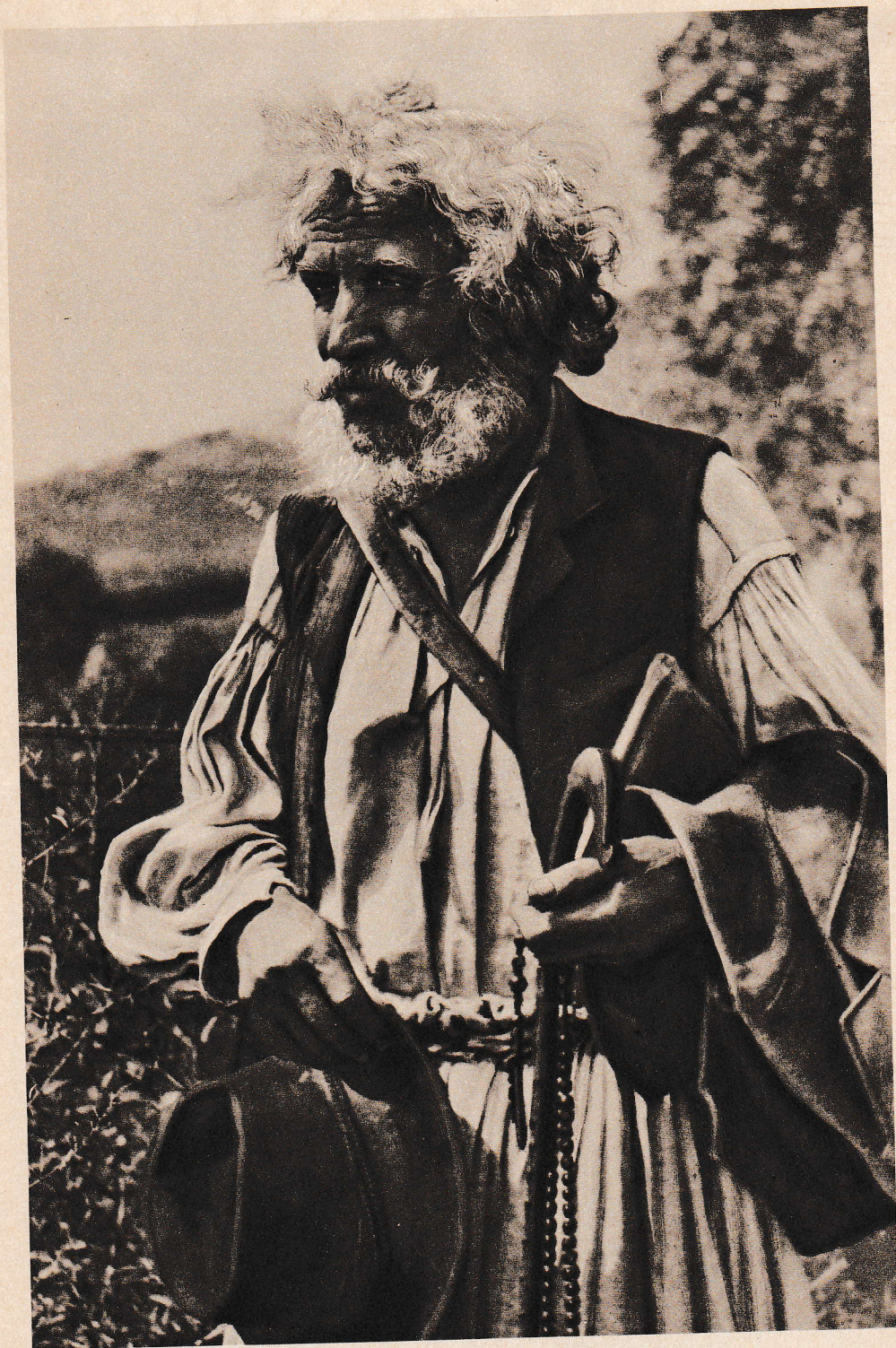
Time stands still when a couple of Croatian matrons come together, for a friendly chat comprises all the tittle-tattle of the countryside



A bottle of home-made wine is a pleasant sight on a sultry day; it gladdens the heart of the Serbian peasant and makes his face to smile



Kupinovo boasts not only many natural beauties but much sturdy young life flourishing in the sunshine under loving maternal care



With book and beads this aged Serb makes his way to church ; his equipment complete with wooden crook—the emblem of his pastoral calling



The full, baggy trousers in vogue among certain sections of the Moslem community in South Yugo-Slavia, though not distinctly graceful on the feminine figure, come not at all amiss when practising the equestrian art

Photo. L. G. Popoff



The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes has many subjects varying in costume, creed, and custom. The small Macedonian population is notable for its diversity in feminine fashions and the gorgeousness of their colouring

Photo, L. G. Popoff



This handsome young couple of the Macedonian peasantry delight to display their brave local finery on this—their wedding-day

Photo, L. G. Popoff



*Macedonian women are picturesque in all their diversified styles,
of which coloured and gold embroideries form conspicuous features*

Photo, L. G. Popoff



Cupid in Croatia! This is no chance encounter at the garden-gate, for here soft amatory nothings are whispered daily into willing ears



Thrifty Croats sow various seeds on the same plot of ground, and prime pumpkins come to light when the maize crops have been harvested



A stirring tale is this native of Kupinovo unfolding, while the tiny son hastens to relate his version to a slightly credulous listener



Belgrade fashions do not attract the girls of Kupinovo ; they find scope for fancy in their own modes ; even the coiffure is a work of art



Though holding the proud position of teacher in a village school of Serbia she does not disdain the homely costume of the peasantry

Photo, Publishers' Photo Service



Broideries and fringes adorn the Sabbath costume of these Croatian gallants discussing rural problems—and their latest conquests



Weary, yet with cheery countenance, these Serbian women tread barefoot the rugged road to market. The burden usually falls on the woman in the Balkans; man takes a share, but a "comfortable" one when possible

SERBIA & THE SERBS

the Serbo-Croatian language, using the Cyrillic alphabet as in Serbia. The Mahomedans, however, have adopted many Turkish customs, and the bazaar at Serajevo or any other Bosnian town closely resembles in appearance the Turkish bazaars of the Near East. The wares sold are also Oriental in character. Only the language in which the trade is carried on proves that the country is ethnologically Slav.

The system of large landed properties everywhere encouraged by the Turks exists still in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This system is totally opposed to the ideas of the Serbs of Serbia, where the land is parcelled out among peasant proprietors. One of the first steps of the new government at Belgrade after the war in 1919 was to introduce measures to expropriate the Bosnian and Croatian landlords. This has naturally caused opposition on the part of the landowning class.

Conservatism in Customs and Costume

In no part of Europe, with the exception of Albania, does a more primitive state of society exist. The greater part of the region is shut off by high mountains from the outside world. The inhabitants live in narrow valleys, occupied with their flocks and herds and their few crops, as their ancestors have lived before them for centuries. Probably no important changes have been made in the habits of the people since the conversion to Islam. The Christians, for their part, follow the customs of a thousand years ago, save that among them may be seen traces of Mahomedan ceremonial. At some Christian churches, for instance, the worshippers bring praying mats, and it is common to see them prostrate themselves to the ground in the Mahomedan attitude of prayer.

The national costumes are very strictly adhered to. These vary according to religion and locality. There are therefore a bewildering number of different costumes to be seen at any

large market town. In general the men wear a white shirt, often embroidered, beneath a sleeveless jacket or waistcoat. The trousers are dark-coloured woollen homespun, tight up to the knees and extremely baggy above. This shape is designed to suit the custom of sitting on the heels.

Bosnian and Herzegovinan Fashions

"Opankes," pieces of untanned hide laced so as to form a kind of shoe, are worn on the feet. The lacing is usually carried up the calf of the leg by means of a stout strap. A brightly coloured sash or belt is worn in some districts, into which knife, tobacco box, flint and steel, and revolver may be tucked. The waistcoat is also often of a gay colour. In certain districts it is of scarlet cloth finely embroidered with gold braid. A short jacket or a long-tailed coat may be worn over the waistcoat.

The long coat is more affected in the districts of Herzegovina towards Montenegro, where it becomes universal. Here also knee breeches and white stockings take the place of the long trousers. A turban or fez is worn by the Mahomedans of Bosnia and by many of the Christians. The true Slav headgear consists of a small skull cap, of various shapes and patterns according to locality. In winter this is often replaced by a fur cap ("shubara").

Women Like Variegated Tulips Show

The women have such a variety of brightly-coloured costumes that no attempt can be made to describe them in detail. The Mahomedan women are strictly veiled and many of the Christian women wear veils as part of their dress. A prevailing style of costume is a short, sleeveless and richly embroidered jacket, similar to the men's waistcoat, worn over a loose white robe with wide sleeves.

The most elaborate embroidery is often reserved for the apron, which is very widely worn. Highly ornamented

SERBIA & THE SERBS

headdresses of various kinds indicate whether the women are married or single and from what district they are. A great amount of jewelry is worn, often in the form of silver coins, which sometimes form a complete breastplate.

Like the Serbs, the Bosnians and Herzegovinans cling to their primitive folklore and belief in spirits of the woods and rivers, fairies, wolf men and witches. The forest spirits are called "vilas." But although the Bosnian folk tales are coloured by Slav legend

and history they are not radically different from those of the Central European peoples. The artistic sense of the people seems to run in the direction of literature and music rather than towards the fine arts. Poetry and dancing make a strong appeal to them, and their old sagas are handed down from generation to generation by "guslari," who recite the stories at great length in verse, to the accompaniment of the "gusla," a musical instrument, in form like a mandoline, with one string made of horsehair.

Bosnia is an inland province lying to the west of Serbia. It is bounded on the north by Slavonia, from which it is separated by the river Save; on the north-west by Croatia; on the south and west by Dalmatia; and on the south and south-east by Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the sandak of Novi Pazar. The Dinaric Alps, a high limestone chain, separate Bosnia from Dalmatia, and branches of the same range divide Bosnia from Herzegovina and Montenegro.

Herzegovina, to the south of Bosnia, is a much smaller territory and is almost entirely mountainous. It is bounded on the south and west by Dalmatia, and on the east by Montenegro. A great part of Herzegovina is bleak, but there are fertile upland plains formed of the silt brought down in the winter floods. Maize and other cultivation is carried on, the villages being situated on the lower slopes of the surrounding mountains.



WHERE ARTISTIC FINGERS PLY THE NEEDLE

Bright local colour is supplied to the town of Ūsküb, or Skoplye, by the variegated costumes of its feminine world, and here is one example of a simple though elegant design embellished with elaborate and multi-hued embroidery

Photo, L. G. Popoff

SERBIA & THE SERBS

The largest river is the Narenta, which rises on the Montenegrin frontier and, after flowing north-west towards the borderland between Bosnia and Herzegovina, turns south-west and pierces the Dinaric Alps through the Narenta defile. In this defile, which forms one of the most remarkable sights in Europe, the Narenta flows with considerable speed between limestone cliffs some thousands of feet high.

In the more fertile districts the chief crop is maize. Sugar and tobacco are also grown, and in the more sheltered parts of Herzegovina Mediterranean fruits flourish, among them being figs, pomegranates, grapes, oranges, and lemons. Plums are exported from Bosnia in large quantities in a dried state. Pigs are reared, chiefly in the lower-lying districts of the north-east on the bank of the Save.

Industries have hitherto been of little importance, although the deposits of coal, iron, and other minerals, together with the water power available, indicate the possibility of great industrial development. Various arts and handicrafts are plied in Turkish fashion, and in the bazaars at Serajevo and other towns inlaid and metal ware may be seen in process of manufacture, together with carpets, rugs, embroidery, and leather work.

The population of Croatia and Slavonia is Slav, and speaks the Serbo-Croatian language. The Croats, however, use the Latin alphabet, so that although the spoken word is the same in Zagreb (Agram) and Belgrade, the Croats of Zagreb cannot necessarily read Serbian books or newspapers. Most Serbs, however, can read the Latin characters.

These two branches of the southern Slav family have always existed as separate political entities, and their different history has caused points of divergence in tradition and custom, some of which are important. The chief point of difference is religion. The Croats are Roman Catholics and



SEQUINED AND SILKEN FINERY

Picturesque in style and pleasing in colour is this variety of Macedonian costume photographed at Ŭsküb, on which sequins, beads, buttons, and coins are set among coloured embroideries in lavish but artistic profusion

Photo, L. G. Popoff

the Serbs Greek Orthodox. Since in Serbia Church and State are very closely allied, this difference of religion has been in the past a stumbling block to political union.

With the growth of more liberal ideas, however, and the inclusion in Serbian



BEAUX AND BELLES DRESSED IN THE FANTASTIC GALA COSTUMES OF THEIR HAMLET IN WESTERN MACEDONIA

So strong is the influence of the West in the Balkan countries that during the last three decades many incongruities noticeable in the feminine world of fashion have been superseded by more simple and modern garments. The women of the middle and lower classes were likewise infected, and not a few of the old-time national costumes disappeared before the advance of Western modes. Nevertheless, in many remoter districts the popular costume still holds its own, and, as with these natives of a small hamlet in the vicinity of Krushevo, may be seen in all its fantastic beauty and traditional originality

Photo, L. G. Popoff



PEASANT MOTHER AND DAUGHTERS OF THE GOSTIVAR NEIGHBOURHOOD IN THEIR WORKDAY DRESS

Their everyday dress is by no means elaborate, for hard work is their portion, and trinkets and best embroideries are kept exclusively for gala occasions. These countryfolk lead a laborious, thrifty life and the women are good wives and affectionate mothers. The girls of the peasant household can usually find plenty of occupation at home, such as threshing the corn, tending the sheep and goats, spinning and weaving the flax and wool, and they dwell under the parental roof until they marry, which is generally when their father can amass a sufficiently large dowry to attract a suitable husband

Photo, L. G. Popoff



MACEDONIAN MARTHA AND MARY PLAYING THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTS

In Yugo-Slavia spinning, weaving, and other home manufactures are carried on chiefly during the winter months, when the female members of the peasant population have little or no outdoor work to claim their time. At Ochrida, a prominent town of Western Macedonia, situated on the lake of the same name, flourish many ancient industries, but none so favoured by the housewife as spinning

Photo, L. G. Popoff

territory of large Mahomedan and other non-Orthodox districts, it is unlikely that this question will present serious difficulties in the future, except in so far as the difference in religion causes different social customs and outlook. The difference of thirteen days in the calendars has now been abolished by the Serbian adoption of the Roman calendar.

Croatia has been less influenced by Turkish occupation than Bosnia and Serbia, and correspondingly more by Austro-Hungarian administration and Teutonic influences generally. Under the empire Croatia approximated in level of civilization to the agricultural districts of Central Europe. The educational and public health services, as well as road and rail communication,

were far in advance of anything in the Balkans. In Agram, or Zagreb, and the other towns there were facilities for education of which the naturally intelligent inhabitants took full advantage, while not ceasing to resent the anti-Slav character of the administration. Zagreb itself is a finely-built town with well-paved streets, broad boulevards, and imposing public buildings. It contains a university, a first-class library, a palatial opera house, and villa residences of a type recalling an Austrian or Swiss town.

The general level of education here is equal to that in a Central European city, and this fact is of importance in considering the future relations of Croatia and Serbia. The educated Croats, who, as in most countries,

SERBIA & THE SERBS

have a disproportionate influence over the ignorant peasantry, have an essentially European, as distinguished from a Balkan, outlook.

The Serbs, whose outlook is purely Balkan, by force of circumstances and their own patriotic ardour, have won for themselves the headship of the new state; and the centralisation of the government at Belgrade since the liberation has not failed to find Croatian critics. This inevitable clash of views forms one of the chief difficulties of the new kingdom.

In the eastern districts of Slavonia Serbs predominate. These are Orthodox and use the Cyrillic alphabet.

In spite of the differences in tradition and outlook above referred to, the influences making for union with the rest of Yugo-Slavia, both in Croatia and Slavonia, are far greater than the disruptive ones. In general, the habits

of the peasantry throughout Yugo-Slavia are very similar, and in temperament the same leading features are everywhere manifest.

Croatia and Slavonia formed, until the Great War, a joint kingdom attached to the kingdom of Hungary.

Croatia is mountainous, being traversed by the line of the Karst mountains, which border the Adriatic from Istria, through Croatia into Dalmatia. These mountains, which form parallel ranges, are dry and arid, but farther east, towards the Croatian capital of Zagreb, the country becomes more fertile, the higher regions being here well wooded and watered by the Save and its tributaries.

In Slavonia the mountains are of less height and a large part of the country consists of fen and marsh land along the banks of the great rivers. There are, however, in Slavonia,



MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN POPULACE OF NEW SERBIA

In Galitchnik, as in other villages of Western Macedonia, fragments and relics of old Macedonian lore are evident in the everyday life of the present generation, whose festivals are a curious fusion of ancient rites and permeated with strange cosmogonic myths. The women present a medley of homeliness and pretension, and though possessing little education are not without intelligence

Photo, L. G. Popoff



ONE OF THE MULTIFARIOUS NATIONAL COSTUMES OF MACEDONIA
 Turks, Greeks, Bulgarians, Serbs, Albanians, Vlachs, and Jews form the present polyglot population of the ancient monarchical territory of Macedonia, now comprised in the governments of Greece, Yugo-Slavia, and Bulgaria. The general traits of this variegated community are widely divergent—and the costumes alone, differing in most districts, include numberless distinctive styles

Photo, L. G. Popoff

especially in the northern and eastern districts, wide areas of high fertility. The climate of Croatia and Slavonia is subject to extremes of winter cold and summer heat.

As in Bosnia, the full mineral resources of Croatia have not yet been developed or possibly discovered. Agriculture is hampered by the arid and mountainous character of the western half of the kingdom and by the marshy nature of much of Slavonia. Nevertheless, it forms the occupation of the vast majority of the population. The crops are similar to those of Serbia and Bosnia, maize being the chief cereal. Among the other crops are flax, hemp,

tobacco, and plums. The vineyards are extensive, and silk is manufactured.

The wide plains of Slavonia favour the rearing of stock, and the horse-breeding industry is a flourishing one. Excellent furniture is made at Agram, and the abundant forests and variety of excellent timber should favour the growth of this and allied industries.

Dalmatia, the most beautiful province of the new Serbian kingdom, is distinguished from the rest by being almost purely maritime, and by its long subjection to Latin influences. Although the Dalmatians are Slavs and speak the Serbo-Croatian language in its purest form, the Italian influence



NEW SERBIA IN BECOMING WORKADAY COSTUME

Her dress, though of sober style, with little of the heavy, elaborate needlework that distinguishes the costumes of many of her countrywomen, suits to perfection her winsome, sunburnt comeliness

2-413

SERBIA & THE SERBS

is everywhere marked, especially in the larger towns. The long ascendancy of Venice explains the Venetian character of the architecture and the prevalence of Italian words in the vocabulary. The population is Roman Catholic, but the Slavonic liturgy is frequently used. In the towns there is a proportion of Italians calculated to be about three per cent. of the whole.

Dalmatia consists of a strip of coastland, running down the eastern shore of the Adriatic between Croatia and Montenegro. A string of islands, some of considerable size, lie close to the mainland and form numberless creeks and lagoons. The Dinaric Alps traverse the country from north to south and render it for the most part unfertile. In contrast, the number and excellence of the harbours and the wealth of fish, sponges, and coral in its waters favour the prosperity of Dalmatia as a maritime province.

The Slovenes, although still strongly Slav in sentiment, have been more subjected to Teutonic influences than any other part of the new southern Slav kingdom. They are Roman Catholic, and their dialect is mixed with many Germanic words. Their Slav patriotism is, however, unquestionable. They form a separate political party at Belgrade. Lying outside the Balkans proper, the Slovenes have discarded some of the more characteristic Balkan customs, although such of their tradition as reaches back to early days is purely Slav in character.

Slovenia is formed of the old Austrian province of Carniola, together with parts of Styria, Carinthia, and Istria. It lies to the north and west of Croatia. The country is extremely mountainous, and contains many remarkable natural features, such as caverns, grottoes, subterranean streams, mineral springs, waterfalls, and lakes.



LOWLY PEASANT DWELLING OF STONE AND TIMBER CONSTRUCTION

The peasant home of Western Macedonia varies with the character and mode of life of its occupants. In the highlands the small wooden houses are perched about the hillsides on high stone foundations, surmounted by thatched roofs. They are generally of very unpretentious aspect, the ground floor being used partly as a storehouse, partly as a shelter for the livestock during the cold months

Photo, L. G. Popoff



THE BRIDE AT THE SPRING: TIME-HONOURED CUSTOM OBSERVED BY A WEDDING-PARTY IN A MACEDONIAN VILLAGE
 Of the Christians of Western Macedonia a large majority belongs to the Eastern Orthodox Church and owns allegiance to the Greek Patriarchate ; but among the various communities the Church festivals are intermixed with old pagan beliefs and customs. In the matter of marriage racial tradition plays an important part ; one quaint observance being the accompanying of the bride to a neighbouring well or spring, where she performs the archaic ceremony of propitiating the naiad of the spring by dropping a coin into it. This done, the young wife draws some water which she carries home and pours a libation of the liquid over the hands of her husband

Photo, L. G. Popoff

Serbia

III. The Story of the New Balkan State

By Anthony Dell

Author of "Serbia To-day and To-morrow," etc.

THE countries united in the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes by the Constitution of 1921 have had no common national history. The ideal of southern Slav unity arose from the knowledge of common racial inheritance, and although at various times since the southern Slavs invaded Europe one or another branch of the race has obtained temporary sway over other branches under some powerful leader, there has never been any permanent national unity.

The southern Slavs are believed to have come originally from the district in south-west Russia east of the Carpathians. They penetrated the Balkans from the east during the sixth and seventh centuries, and had become a menace to the Byzantine Empire in the days of Justinian. Their penetration was not a military invasion, but rather the encroachment of tribal hordes seeking pastures for their flocks and herds and sites for their scattered village settlements.

Rise of the Medieval Empire

In 627 the Slavs, dominated by the barbarian Avars, laid siege to Byzantium. They were defeated by the Emperor Heraclius, but continued to occupy Roman territory until, by the middle of the seventh century, they were in possession of practically all the lands which the southern Slavs inhabit to-day. They had by this time acknowledged Byzantine suzerainty. The invaders gradually split up into various groups corresponding roughly to the modern branches of the southern Slav family.

The history of Serbia proper falls into three periods. First came the rise of the medieval empire, then the long subjection to Ottoman rule, and, thirdly, the struggle for national independence in the nineteenth century. By the end of the tenth century the nucleus of the Serbian kingdom had been formed in the mountainous district of Novi Pazar, with the capital at Rashka, and an expansion followed westwards in the direction of Montenegro (q.v.); and southwards to Ipek, Prisrend, and Skoplye (Üsküb).

Christianity was introduced in the ninth century, largely through the influence of two monks, Cyril (Constantine) and Methodius, who composed the Slavonic alphabet still in use in Serbia and known as "Cyrillic."

Towards the end of the twelfth century Stephen Nemanya, Grand Zhupan of Rashka, laid the foundation of the medieval Serbian empire. In alliance with the Hungarians he reduced the fortresses of Nish and Belgrade, and subsequently overran the whole of Zeta (Montenegro) as far as Cattaro. By a treaty between Nemanya and the Byzantine emperor in 1190 Serbian territory was extended as far as Kragujevatz and Leskovatz. Nemanya abdicated in 1196, and retired as a monk to Mount Athos, whither his youngest son, Sava, had preceded him.

Increase of Material Wealth

Stephen, the second son, who succeeded as Zhupan, was crowned king by the Pope's legate in 1217, but through the influence of S. Sava, Serbia returned to the Orthodox Church and Stephen was crowned again at Uzhitze, in accordance with Greek rites, by S. Sava, who had been appointed the first Serbian archbishop.

Under Urosh II. (1282-1321), of the same dynasty, Serbian power was considerably developed. Belgrade and the district south of the Save had by now been granted to Serbia by Hungary. Urosh carried out successful campaigns against the Greek emperor, capturing Skoplye (Üsküb), which henceforth became the capital of Serbia. The economic resources of Serbia, both mineral and agricultural, were being extensively exploited at this time, and with increasing material wealth there was a development of art (particularly church architecture) and literature.

Serbian Power at its Zenith

At the death of Urosh II. a dual kingship was established, the two sovereigns being Urosh III., son of the late king, and his own son, Stephen Dushan (1322). The seizure of Prilep led to a war with the Greeks and their allies, the Bulgars, and in 1330 the Bulgars were totally routed at Kustendil, the Tsar Michael being killed. An attempt by Urosh to depose Dushan led to his own deposition and death, and Dushan became sole king in September, 1331.

The reign of Stephen Dushan (or Dushan the Great) marks the summit of the power of the medieval Serbian kingdom. Dushan, one of the foremost soldiers and statesmen

SERBIA & ITS STORY

of his time, reduced practically the whole of the Balkans in successive campaigns, including Bosnia, Albania, Macedonia, and northern Greece. His influence extended from Ragusa in the west to Bulgaria in the east. Venice was his constant ally, and the Holy Roman Emperor addressed him as an equal.

Stephen Dushan's Glorious Reign

Dushan was crowned Tsar of the Serbs and Greeks on Easter Sunday, 1346, by the Patriarchs of Serbia and Bulgaria. He contemplated opposing the Turkish advance, now becoming menacing, by a Christian league, of which he was to be the head under the aegis of the Pope. He received only verbal encouragement at Rome, however, and proceeded to move against the Turks on his own account. His plan was first to occupy Constantinople, already in danger from Turkish attack.

In leading his armies towards this objective Dushan fell ill and died in 1355. His death removed the chief obstacle to the advance of the Turks in Europe, and was felt at the time throughout Europe to be a blow to Christendom. The military conquests of Dushan's reign coincided with a period of great material prosperity in Serbia. The magnificence of his court was famous. His statesmanship is evidenced by his legal code (*Zakonik*), published in 1349, which shows that at this time Serbia was comparatively advanced in civilization.

After the death of Dushan the Serbian empire split up among several semi-independent rulers, among whom the most important were Vukashin, King of Prilep; Lazar, Knez of Rudnik; and Tsar Urosh, the son of Dushan. After the seizure of Adrianople by the Turks the three Serbian leaders entered into an alliance with the Bulgarians and Hungarians and met the Turkish army on the banks of the River Maritza near Adrianople (1371). The Serbs were completely defeated, and Vukashin was drowned.

Independence Lost at Kossovo

The Turks then conquered the whole of Eastern Macedonia, and gradually subdued the Serbian princes west of the Vardar. One of the most famous of these vassal princes was Marko Kraljevitich, King of Prilep and son of Vukashin. He is the hero of many Serbian legends. About 1382 Nish fell into the hands of the Turks. Lazar remained the most powerful leader of the Serbs, and in 1387 he defeated a Turkish army at Plotchnik.

Two years later, however, on June 15, 1389, the Serbian and allied armies under Lazar were totally defeated on the Plain of Kossovo. Lazar and Sultan Murad

were both killed, the latter (according to Serbian legends) being murdered in his tent before the battle by Milosh Obilitch. The battle of Kossovo practically closed the period of Serbian medieval independence.

Montenegro successfully resisted the Turkish attacks, but all Serbia proper, together with Bosnia and Herzegovina, fell. The last independent Serbian ruler was George Brankovitch, who fortified himself at Smederevo (Semendria), at the mouth of the Morava, on the Danube. The fortress held out till 1459, Brankovitch having died the previous year. The Belgrade district had been previously ceded to Hungary.

The period of Turkish rule in Serbia lasted from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, and contains few outstanding historical events. The development of Serbia as a nation was in a state of complete suspension, although several causes combined to keep alive the spirit of independence. The continued independence of Montenegro was an example to Serbia, and afforded an asylum for her insurgents.

From Irritation to Insurrection

Economic and religious factors intensified Serbian irritation against the conquerors. The Serbian nobles and landowners had been largely replaced by Ottoman lords, while the Serb peasantry remained Orthodox Christians. The repeated risings which took place were, therefore, those of a discontented peasantry against alien overlords. These risings were carried out sometimes in alliance with Austria and Hungary, and sometimes on a smaller scale in league with the roving bands of outlaws (*haiduks*) who maintained their independence among the wilder and least accessible regions of Serbia, carrying on guerrilla warfare against the Turks.

There were occasional migrations of Serbs during this period across the Save to Slavonia and south Hungary. One of the most important was carried out under the aegis of the Serbian Patriarch Arsem III. towards the end of the seventeenth century. Between 1718 and 1739 Belgrade and portions of northern Serbia were in the hands of Austria, but in the latter year Austria was forced back beyond the Danube.

The Turks interfered comparatively little with local institutions in Serbia, and allowed freedom of worship. Serbs served as Christians in the Turkish armies, although levies were also made from time to time for janissaries—that is, Serbian children were taken to be reared as Mahomedans for the Turkish janissary corps.

The first national insurrection against the Turks began under Karageorge in

SERBIA & ITS STORY

1804. Karageorge (Black George) was a pig-dealer who had served in the Austrian army and understood both regular and guerrilla warfare. Serbia contained a large number of men accustomed to arms at this time, as corps of Serbian volunteers had twice been enrolled by the Pasha of Belgrade, to subdue revolting janissaries. The janissaries had by this time become a menace to the Sultan as well as a terror to the Serbs. Between 1804 and 1807 Karageorge and his bands defeated several Turkish forces sent against them and captured Belgrade, Shabatz, and Uzhitze. In 1809, however, the Serbians were severely defeated near Nish. The Turks built a tower with the skulls of the slain Serbians, which is still shown to the traveller. In 1813 the Turks finally reconquered Serbia, Karageorge escaping to Austrian territory.

Another successful rising in 1815 was led by Milosh Obrenovitch, who, in 1817, became Prince of the Serbs. In the same year Karageorge returned from Austria and was murdered, probably with the connivance of Milosh. This began the long feud between the rival royal houses

of Karageorgevitch and Obrenovitch. In 1830, after the peace of Adrianople, the Sultan granted local autonomy to Serbia under Milosh as hereditary prince. Turkish garrisons still occupied the fortresses, and tribute was paid. The arbitrary rule of Milosh, though marked by considerable reforms, led to his enforced abdication in 1839. His encouragement of peasant proprietors with small holdings has had most important effects on Serbian history, and is largely responsible for the chief economic and social characteristic of the country to-day. Serbia remains a nation of peasant smallholders without large landowners.

Milosh's son Michael (Mihylo) reigned till 1842, when he was expelled, and Alexander, a son of Karageorge, was elected by the Skupshtina, the national assembly. Alexander was, in turn, expelled in 1859, and the old prince Milosh recalled. Milosh died the following year, and was again succeeded by his son Michael, whose reign of eight years was marked by enlightened reforms. He enhanced the power of the popular Skupshtina at the expense of the Senate. In



THE KINGDOM OF THE SERBS, CROATS, AND SLOVENES

SERBIA & ITS STORY

1867, with the support of France and Russia, he obtained the withdrawal of all the Turkish garrisons from the Serbian fortresses. In 1868 Michael was assassinated at Topchider and was succeeded by his son Milan.

The rising in Bulgaria led to war by Serbia and Montenegro on Turkey in 1876. Serbia was at first unsuccessful, and Belgrade was only saved by an armistice imposed on the Porte by Russia in October. In the following year, during the Russo-Turkish hostilities, Milan again declared war on Turkey, captured Nish, and expelled the Turks from Kossovo. By the treaty with Berlin Serbian independence was recognized, and she received new territory in the south from Nish to Vranja.

End of the Obrenovitch Dynasty

Milan assumed the title of king in 1882. His despotism and personal vices made him unpopular, and his abortive attack on Bulgaria in 1885, at the instigation of Austria, intensified the feeling against him. Dislike of foreign influence over its rulers is very marked in Serbia, and it should be noted that the reigning dynasty comes of Serbian peasant stock.

After suddenly presenting the country with a Constitution, Milan abdicated in 1889 in favour of his son Alexander, a minor. Alexander proved himself as despotic as his father, and his marriage in 1900 with a widow, Draga Mashin, of notorious character, enraged the country against him. The introduction of a new Constitution did nothing to alleviate this, and in June, 1903, Alexander and Draga were murdered in the palace at Belgrade by a band of military officers. Peter Karageorgevitch was called to the throne.

The following years were marked by the hostility of Austria, who put a ban on Serbian pigs in 1905, and in 1908, by the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, brought the two countries to the verge of war. The outcome was the Balkan League between Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, and Greece, directed as much against Austria as Turkey.

First and Second Balkan Wars

In 1912 the misgovernment of Macedonia by the Turks finally led to war between them and the Balkan League. In a few weeks the Turkish forces were entirely broken, and the whole of their European territory, as far as Adrianople, lost. The victory was marred by a quarrel over the spoils between Serbia and Bulgaria, leading to war between the former allies in the summer of 1913. The Serbians were again victorious, and by the treaty of Bukarest received virtually the whole of Macedonia, the Serbian

territory extending nearly as far as Salonica (Greek), in the south, and westwards as far as Prilep, Monastir, and Ochrida. The sanjak of Novi Pazar was divided between Serbia and Montenegro.

By the Balkan War Serbia was almost doubled in size and recovered Üsküb, the ancient capital of Serbia, together with the whole district known as Old Serbia, including the plain of Kossovo.

The aggrandisement of Serbia during the Balkan War made her the focus of Yugo-Slav aspirations, and brought upon her the redoubled enmity of Austria. The assassination of the Austrian Crown Prince, Francis Ferdinand, at Serajevo, on June 28, 1914, gave Austria an opportunity of accusing Serbia of complicity and of declaring war upon her. In this devastating war Serbia's armies again showed the élan and hardihood for which the Serbian soldier is noted. The Austrians twice invaded the country and were twice repulsed, the second time with enormous loss.

The entry of Bulgaria into the war, and the dispatch of a German force under Mackensen to direct the final attack, led to the disaster in the autumn of 1915, when the whole country was rapidly overrun from three sides at once.

Establishment of the Triune Kingdom

Part of the army, together with the king and the government, escaped to Albania, and retreated through the mountains to the coast, where the survivors were received by the Allies and transported to Corfu. In three months the remnants of the army had been reorganized and occupied part of the Allied line in Macedonia. The triumphal onslaught on the Bulgarians and Austrians in 1918 was very largely due to the Serbian troops, and is said to have been planned by Voyvoda Mishitch, their brilliant field-marshal.

By the Pact of Corfu, signed during the war, Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes agreed to unite in a Triune Kingdom under King Peter. The defeat of Austria enabled this project to be carried out, and the Yugo-Slav agreement with Italy in 1921 gave to the new kingdom Dalmatia and most of its islands. Montenegro also declared its adhesion to the Serbian Kingdom. A Constituent Assembly ratified the Constitution in 1921.

King Peter died in August, 1921, and was succeeded by his second son, Alexander, who had for some years acted as Regent.

Bosnia and Herzegovina have only had short periods of independence. They appear to have been subject in turn to Croatia, Hungary, and the eastern

SERBIA & ITS STORY

emperor, finally falling under Turkish rule.

Risings against Turkish misgovernment marked the first half of the nineteenth century, and the Christian revolt of 1875 was followed by the Austro-Hungarian occupation of 1878. Annexation to Austria was declared in 1908. The Austrian occupation was violently opposed, and Yugoslav agitation was active in the country till 1914. It was at Serajevo, the capital of Bosnia, that the Austrian Crown Prince Ferdinand was murdered.

The Turks arrived in Croatia in the sixteenth century and occupied the country until 1718, when, by the Treaty of Passarowitz, the emperor regained most of the territory. There was no conversion to Mahomedanism under Turkish rule, as in Bosnia. The Croats remained Roman Catholic, and Western rather than Eastern in civilization.

Dalmatia, throughout its history, has been divided into isolated harbour towns, where Latin civilization has been predominant, and the country districts, where the Slav element has been important since the seventh century. The towns have been Roman Catholic, and the country districts Orthodox. Venice and Hungary competed for mastery in the Dalmatian towns for several centuries, the local population being divided in its allegiance, some helping one and some the other.

Slovenia, the third and most northerly division of the new kingdom, includes Carniola and parts of Carinthia, Styria, and Istria. It is historically interesting as being the first to obtain independence after the Slav invasions of the seventh century. It was conquered by Charlemagne and remained under Austrian influence till 1918, though the Slav language and habits persisted.

KINGDOM OF THE SERBS, CROATS, AND SLOVENES: FACTS AND FIGURES

The Country

Includes the former kingdom of Serbia and Montenegro and large portions of what was Austro-Hungarian territory, and some small concessions from Bulgaria. The states of Bosnia and Herzegovina are comprised within the territory of this kingdom, as are Croatia-Slavonia, Dalmatia, the Backa and the Banat districts and Slovenia, the name given to those parts of Carniola, Styria, and Carinthia peopled by Slovenes. Dinaric Alps and subsidiary ranges divide Montenegro and Herzegovina from Bosnia and are cleft by the gorge of the Narenta river. Large forests cover part of country. Main rivers are the Danube, Save, Morava, and Narenta. Total population of kingdom totals about 12,017,000, inhabiting an area of some 6,000 square miles.

Government and Constitution

Under the Constitution of June 28, 1921, provision is made for a single chamber of over three hundred members, called the National Assembly. It is summoned and dissolved by the king, who is bound to uphold constitution. There is a Prime Minister, and a Cabinet of fifteen ministers. There is also a Constituent Assembly.

Defence

Service in army is compulsory between ages of twenty-one and forty-five. Total forces in peace time, about 127,000 officers and men. Navy consists of some four monitors on the Danube, and twelve torpedo-boats for police purposes.

Commerce and Industries

Agriculture the main occupation of inhabitants. Apples, plums, pears, olives, vines, and tobacco are grown, and many are employed in the culture of silk. In 1922 the country had more than 5,000,000 head of cattle, and 7,000,000 sheep. There are large, but mainly undeveloped, tracts of forest containing fir, beech, and oak. Mineral

deposits include iron, coal, gold, copper ore, and antimony. Among principal industries are distilling and brewing, tanning, and iron working, and there is an old-established carpet weaving industry. In 1921 imports, of which the chief were agricultural products, chemicals, animal products, and machinery, totalled 4,122,097,642 dinars. Exports for same year totalled 2,460,737,562 dinars, and included corn, maize, prunes, cattle, and timber. Standard coin the silver dinar, nominally worth one French franc.

Communications

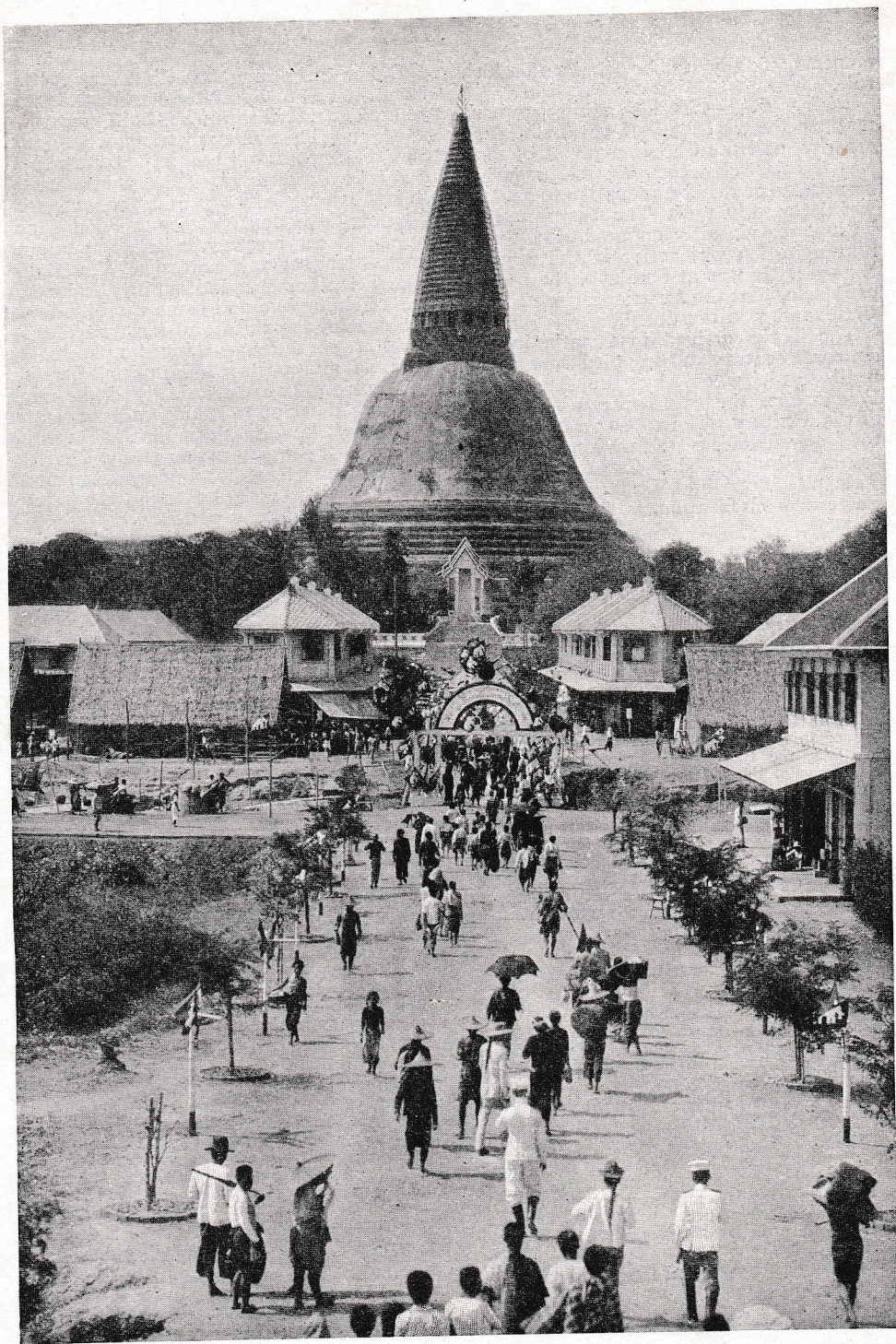
Total railway mileage about 5,700, mainly state owned. Roads aggregate about 3,500 miles, and are largely in an indifferent state. There is a navigation syndicate controlling the rivers Danube and Save, the total length of navigable waterway being about 1,700 miles. There are over 11,000 miles of telegraph, and more than 16,000 miles of telephone line. Post offices number about 3,700.

Religion and Education

About 47 per cent. of population belong to Greek Orthodox Church, 39 per cent. are Roman Catholics, 2 per cent. Protestants, and 11 per cent. Mahomedans. There are two Roman Catholic Bishops, and Serbian Orthodox Church is under a synod of bishops, and all ecclesiastical officials are controlled by a Minister of Public Worship. There is complete freedom of conscience. Primary education free and compulsory under Ministry of Education. There are about 6,000 elementary schools, with about 800,000 pupils and a staff of 12,700. There are veterinary, law, and engineering schools and universities at Belgrade, Laibach, and Agram.

Chief Towns

Belgrade, capital (estimated population, 120,000), Agram (80,000), Laibach (60,000), Serajevo (50,000), Novi Sad (40,000), Nish (25,000), Kragujevatz (18,000), Sabac (11,500).



PHRAPATOOM'S IMMENSE PAGODA ASPIRING TO THE SKIES

Lying west of the Menam river, not far from Bangkok, Phrapatoom is an important educational centre, with military and agricultural schools. Its distinguishing asset is its huge pagoda, the largest in Siam, much resorted to by pilgrims, especially on the first and eighth days of the waxing and the first and eighth days of the waning moon, when it is always thronged with worshippers

Photo, W. A. Graham